



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Naoki HAGAI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2625

Application No.: 10/608,477

Examiner: DHINGRA

Filed: June 30, 2003

Docket No.: 116403

For: MULTILEVEL VALUE OUTPUT DEVICE

APPLICANTS' SEPARATE RECORD OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Haskins in the June 10, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

During the personal interview, Applicants traversed the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-24 over Yamamoto (U.S. Patent No. 7,009,731). Applicants' arguments paralleled the arguments asserted in the Amendment filed May 16, 2008.

As argued during the personal interview, Yamamoto does not teach or suggest the claimed features of independent claims 1, 14, 19-21 and 23. Yamamoto does not teach or suggest "when the corrected value is close to at least one of the at least three relative density values, [reducing] a frequency, at which the output value generation portion converts the corrected value into one multilevel output value," as recited in independent claim 1; "reducing, when the corrected value is close to at least one of the at least three relative density values, a frequency, at which the corrected value is converted into one multilevel output

value," as recited in independent claim 19; and "a program of reducing, when the corrected value is close to at least one of the at least three relative density values, a frequency, at which the corrected value is converted into one multilevel output value," as recited in independent claim 21.


In addition, as argued during the personal interview, Yamamoto also does not teach or suggest changing both threshold values such that "both the higher and lower threshold values are modified to become closer to each other when the input value becomes close to the middle relative density value," as recited in independent claim 14; "modifying, upon receipt of the input value, both the higher and lower threshold values in a manner that both the higher and lower threshold values become closer to each other when the input value becomes close to the middle relative density value," as recited in independent claim 20; or "a program of modifying, upon receipt of the input value, both the higher and lower threshold values in a manner that both the higher and lower threshold values become closer to each other when the input value becomes close to the middle relative density value," as recited in independent claim 23 (emphasis added).

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-21 and 23 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:PTM/lrh

Date: June 26, 2008

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